



Commodity Specification

CANNED BONED POULTRY

MAY 2008



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I. GENERAL

A. Product Description

Canned boned poultry (commodity) produced from the classes of ready-to-cook chickens and turkeys (poultry) described in this Specification will be packaged and packed in one or more of the following forms as specified in the contract:

12.5 oz (354 g) cans - Twelve and one-half ounces (354 g) of commodity must be packaged in a 401 x 204 size metal can and packed 48 cans in each fiberboard shipping container. A purchase unit will consist of 1,000 shipping containers totaling 37,500 pounds (17,030 kg):

(211212) - Canned Boned Chicken

(213348) - Canned Boned Turkey

50 oz (1.42 kg) cans - Fifty ounces (1.42 kg) of commodity must be packaged in a 404 x 700 size metal can and packed 12 cans in each fiberboard shipping container. A purchase unit will consist of 1,000 shipping containers totaling 37,500 pounds (17,030 kg):

(211050) - Canned Boned Chicken

(213150) - Canned Boned Turkey

B. Food Defense Requirements

Contractors and subcontractors participating in the commodity purchase program must have a documented and operational food defense plan that provides for the security of a plant's production processes and includes the storage and transportation of finished product after production. The plan shall address the following areas: (1) food defense plan management; (2) outside and inside security of the production and storage facilities; (3) slaughter and processing, including all raw material sources; (4) shipping and receiving; (5) storage; (6) water and ice supply; (7) mail handling; (8) personnel security; and (9) controlled access to production and storage areas. The food defense plan shall be made available to the Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) Auditor immediately upon request. Verification of the Food Defense Program at the processing, storage, and distribution facility will be conducted by the USDA/AMS Auditor.

C. Commodity Complaints

The contractor/producer must immediately report all complaints received on the commodity to the Contracting Officer.

D. Humane Handling

All poultry shall be humanely handled in accordance with all applicable USDA/Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) regulations, directives, and notices.

II. COMMODITY SPECIFICATIONS

A. Basic Requirements

1. Date Processed. The commodity must not be processed and packaged more than 30 calendar days prior to the date of the contract.

2. Poultry Kind and Class. The commodity must be produced from one of the following kinds and classes of poultry:

a. Chickens must be fowl or roosters (AMS 70.201).

b. Turkeys must be young, yearling, or mature turkeys (AMS 70.202).

3. Origin of Poultry. The commodity must be produced from poultry that was produced, raised, and processed in the United States, its territories or possessions, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or the Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands. If the contractor processes or handles poultry carcasses and parts originating from sources other than the United States, its territories or possessions, Puerto Rico, or the Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands, the contractor must have an acceptable identification and segregation plan for these poultry carcasses and parts to ensure they are not used in the commodity produced under this Specification. This plan must be made available to a representative of the Grading Branch, Poultry Programs/AMS/USDA (Grader), and the Contracting Officer or agent thereof upon request. The contractor must ensure that both the contractor and subcontractor(s) maintain records such as invoices, or production and inventory records evidencing product origin, and make such records available for review by the Grader or other Government official(s).

4. Inspection. Processing operations must comply with Poultry Products Inspection Regulations (9 CFR part 381) and be under the supervision of an Inspector with the USDA's FSIS. Inspection for contract and specification compliance will be in accordance with the Regulations Governing the Voluntary Grading of Poultry Products and Rabbit Products (7 CFR part 70) and the U.S. Classes, Standards, and Grades for Poultry (AMS 70.200 *et seq.*) under the supervision of a Grader. The Grader will be responsible for certification of compliance with the requirements of this Specification for poultry; cooked poultry carcasses and poultry parts; formulation of commodity; canned thermal-processed commodity; drained weight and net weight; packaging and packing; labeling and marking; sampling; and checkloading.

5. FSIS Requirements. The commodity must be produced and processed in an FSIS federally inspected establishment, be accurately marked and/or labeled, and meet all FSIS regulatory requirements, including all microbiological testing requirements, currently in place.

6. Poultry from Other Plants. Frozen and chilled poultry and poultry parts may be transferred or obtained from other plants, provided they: (a) have been processed, handled, and identified in accordance with this Specification, and (b) comply with the organoleptic and other applicable requirements of this Specification as evidenced by USDA certification.

a. Type, kind, and class of poultry; date slaughtered or date placed in frozen storage, as applicable; and USDA-assigned plant number must be shown on each shipping container.

b. The poultry and poultry parts must be at an internal product temperature not higher than 40 °F (4.4 °C) when shipped from the origin plant and when received at the destination plant.

7. Frozen Poultry. Frozen poultry and poultry parts may be used if they have been: (a) packaged to protect the product from freezer burn, dehydration, and quality deterioration during storage, (b) labeled as to kind and class of poultry and identified so the time in storage can be determined, and (c) held in frozen (0° F/-17.8° C) storage for not more than 60 days.

8. USDA Sampling Option. USDA may select additional product for further inspection or may draw samples for laboratory analyses.

B. Prerequisites for Poultry

1. Unacceptable Meat. Mechanically separated meat (comminuted), giblets, and kidneys cannot be used in preparing the commodity.

2. Organoleptic Requirements. The poultry and poultry parts will be examined on a continuous basis for the following organoleptic requirements: Poultry and poultry parts must be free of rancidity; free of fruity, sulfide-like, cardboardy, tallowy, oily, oxidized, metallic, chlorine, or other off-odors; free of foreign materials (e.g., glass, paper, rubber, plastic, metal); must show no evidence of mishandling or deterioration; and must have a bright color and show no evidence of freezer burn or dehydration, or thawing and refreezing. Any sample of poultry and poultry parts that does not comply with the organoleptic requirements will be rejected for use under this Specification.

C. Processing, Formulation, and Requirements for Commodity

1. Processing Requirements. The commodity must be prepared from cooked poultry meat; broth from cooked poultry, or water; and salt. The use of the words--meat, and broth--in this section means poultry meat, and poultry broth prepared from one of the kinds and classes of poultry specified in II.A.2.

2. Cooking.

a. Poultry without giblets and poultry parts may be: (1) cooked with water without pressure, (2) pressure cooked, or (3) steam cooked. The method of cooking must produce a

cooked product free of overcooked, burnt, scorched, bitter, metallic, cardboardy, rancid, or other flavors or odors foreign to properly cooked chicken or turkey.

b. Cooked meat may be held at 40 °F (4.4 °C) or lower for not more than 5 days from time of cooking until canned, or the chilled cooked meat may be frozen and held at an internal product temperature of 0 °F (-17.8 °C) or lower.

3. Meat Defects.

a. Organoleptic defects. The cooked meat will be examined on a continuous basis for compliance with the organoleptic requirements shown in Table 1. If the cooked meat does not comply with the organoleptic requirements, it will be rejected for use under this Specification.

Table 1. Cooked Poultry Meat
Organoleptic Requirements and Defects

Organoleptic Requirements:	The meat must be free of skin and foreign materials (e.g., glass, paper, rubber, plastic, metal); and odors which are not characteristic of properly cooked and handled poultry meat; for example, rancid, metallic, stale, sour, or scorched.
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4. Size Reduction of Meat.

a. Meat. The meat must be processed in a manner that will minimize stringy texture. The larger pieces of meat, to include breast portions and thigh portions, must be cut into chunks which are a minimum of 1.25 inch (1 ¼ inch) (3.18 cm) in size.

5. Formulation. The following proportions of meat, and broth or water must be used in preparing the commodity:

	<u>Percent by Weight</u>
Meat in Natural Proportion	80.00
Salt	0.50
Broth or Water (maximum)	<u>19.50</u>
	100.00

6. Meat in Natural Proportions. The combined amount of white and dark meat as specified in the formula, II.C.5., must be prepared according to one of the following methods:

a. Cooked white and dark meat in natural proportion as removed from the cooked whole fowl carcass.

b. Formulated on a weight basis to contain a minimum of 50 percent cooked white meat and a maximum of 50 percent cooked dark meat. The method used by the contractor must have established control procedures, processing sequence, product flow, and methods for

handling the pulled cooked white and dark meat to ensure that: (1) the natural proportion of cooked white and dark meat is maintained, (2) no white meat is removed for other uses, and (3) no dark meat is added from other sources. Hand de-boned wing meat and neck meat are not allowed in the natural proportion white and dark meat. These procedures and methods must be reviewed and found acceptable by supervisory personnel of the Grading Branch, Poultry Programs, AMS, before they can be used to produce white and dark meat for this Specification.

7. Broth or Water.

a. Broth or potable water must be used in the commodity. Broth used must be a flavorful broth from the un-pressurized cooking of not less than two or more than four batches of poultry in the same broth. A continuous cooking method may be used, provided water is added during the cooking operation and the process results in a broth equivalent to that described in the preceding sentence. Broth from one batch of pressure-cooked poultry may be used. Broth produced by cooking only fat and bones cannot be used. Broth must be maintained at a temperature of 160 °F (71.1 °C) or higher or must be chilled to and maintained at a temperature of 40 °F (4.4 °C) or lower within 4 hours of preparation. Broth may not be held for more than 48 hours unless the broth is frozen or dried.

b. Other methods of preparing broth or handling the broth may be approved by the Deputy Administrator of Poultry Programs, in writing. Approvals will be granted on an individual plant basis after a review of the process and when the resulting method is found acceptable by supervisory personnel of the Grading Branch, Poultry Programs.

c. Broth must be free from bitter, rancid, metallic, cardboardy, soapy, scorched, burnt, overcooked, stale, and other off-odors or off-flavors foreign to properly processed chicken or turkey broth.

8. Packaging. All packaging materials must be clean and in new condition, must be tamper-evident, and must not impart odors or flavors to the product. Tamper-evident is defined as packaging and packing materials with one or more indicators of barriers to entry, which, if breached or missing, can reasonably be expected to provide visible evidence that tampering has occurred. A supplier of packaging material must furnish a guaranty that the packaging material complies with FSIS regulations (9 CFR part 381.144).

a. Packaging material. The commodity must be packaged in cans. The cans must be metal, round, and open-style with welded side seams. They must be equivalent in construction, base plate (tin or chromium-coated steel), and enamel/coating to those in commercial use for the commodity specified in this Specification.

b. Filling cans. Cans may be filled by first adding the meat to each can and then adding the broth or water to each can, or filling with a mixture of meat, and broth or water and salt. Appropriate amount of salt may be dissolved in either broth or water prior to filling the can, or appropriate amount of salt may be added to each can prior to filling with meat and broth or water.

(1) 12.5-oz. cans. Twelve and one-half ounces (354 g) net weight of commodity must be packed in 401 x 204 size metal cans.

(2) 50-oz. cans. Fifty ounces (1.42 kg) net weight of commodity must be packed in 404 x 700 size metal cans.

9. Net Weight. The net weight of the commodity will be determined in accordance with Poultry Programs' procedures.

D. Thermal Processing

The can must be filled allowing adequate headspace, hermetically sealed, and thermal-processed in accordance with FSIS regulations. The thermal-processed commodity must have a stable shelf life under the conditions of long-term, non-refrigerated storage and transportation. The exterior of the can must be dry, clean, and free from rust, fat, and grease before packing into shipping containers.

E. Lots, Sublots, and Sampling

1. Definition of a Lot.

a. A lot is defined as the amount of commodity produced during a processing shift.

b. Unless otherwise specified, the commodity will be: (1) sampled, examined, and tested; and (2) accepted, rejected, or accepted subject to a price discount on a lot basis.

2. Definition of a Sublot.

a. A lot may be separated into sublots for the purpose of sampling and determining drained weight and compliance with organoleptic and commodity defect requirements. If this option is used, the commodity must be sampled as outlined in II.E.3.

b. Commodity sampled and analyzed on the basis of sublots will be accepted, rejected, or accepted with a discount on a subplot basis.

3. Definition of a Sample.

a. A sample is one 12.5 oz. or 50 oz. (354 g or 1.42 kg) can of commodity or its equivalent.

b. The Grader will draw samples at random for compliance with the organoleptic requirements, and drained weight after thermal processing as determined by the contractor/processor. The Grader will collect sample cans from each lot or subplot at random **prior to or after** thermal processing to examine for the commodity defects (see II.F.3.). The

contractor/processor must select a sampling option (either option I or option II) prior to the start of production.

(1) If the contractor/processor elects to sample cans **prior to** thermal processing (option I), the number of samples from a lot for the drained weight, and the determination of organoleptic and defect requirements will be as detailed in Table 2.

(a) For the determination of organoleptic and defect requirements under option I, no additional separation of the lot into sublots will be allowed.

(b) Samples for organoleptic requirements (see II.F.2.) and drained weight determination (see II.F.1.) will be drawn after thermal processing (option II) and will represent 1 day's production.

Table 2. Samples Drawn Online From a Lot or Sublot - *Option I*

12.5 oz (354g) cans			50 oz (1.42-kg) cans		
Lot or Sublot	Organoleptic Requirements and Defects	Drained Weight	Lot or Sublot	Organoleptic Requirements and Defects	Drained Weight
Lot	5 cans per Sampling interval	24 cans	Lot	1 can per Sampling interval	6 cans
Sublot*	5 cans per Sampling interval	12 cans	Sublot*	1 can per Sampling interval	3 cans

* The total number of samples drawn from all sublots in a lot must be equal to or greater than those specified for a lot.

(2) If the contractor/processor elects to sample cans **after** thermal processing (option II), the sampling of commodity from a lot or a sublot will be as detailed in Table 3.

Table 3. Samples Drawn From a Lot or Sublot - *Option II*

12.5 oz. (354 g) cans			50 oz. (1.42 kg) cans		
Total No. of Cans	Drained Weight	Organoleptic Requirements and Defects	Total No. of Cans	Drained Weight	Organoleptic Requirements and Defects
	Number of Cans			Number of Cans	
Lot	First 24 cans	First 24 + 8 cans	Lot	First 6 cans	First 6 + 2 cans
Total = 32 cans			Total = 8 cans		
Sublot*	First 12 cans	First 12 + 4 cans	Sublot*	First 3 cans	First 3 + 1 can
Total = 16 cans			Total = 4 cans		

* The total number of samples drawn from all sublots in a lot must be equal to or greater than those specified for a lot.

F. Requirements for Thermal-Processed Commodity

1. Drained-Weight Requirements and Determination.

a. Samples. After thermal processing, the Grader will randomly draw sample cans (as defined in II.E.3.b.) to determine drained weight.

(1) Filled 12.5 oz. can requirements. The 12.5 oz. (354 g) filled cans from a lot or subplot must average not less than 10.0 oz. (283.5 g) of commodity on a drained-weight basis.

(2) Filled 50 oz. can requirements. The 50 oz. (1.42 kg) filled cans from a lot or subplot must average not less than 40.0 ounces (1.13 kg) of commodity on a drained-weight basis.

b. Discounts. Lots or sublots of commodity with a drained weight averaging:
(1) greater than or equal to 9.6 oz. (272.5 g) and less than 10.0 oz. (283.5 g) for 12.5 oz.(354 g) cans, and (2) greater than or equal to 38.5 oz. (1.09 kg) and less than 40.0 oz. (1.13 kg) for 50 oz. (1.42 kg) cans will be accepted with the deviations subject to the price discount indicated in Table 4.

c. Rejections. A lot or subplot of filled cans with a drained weight averaging less than the weights indicated in Table 4 will be rejected.

Table 4. Drained Weights and Discounts

Drained Weight Basis Average for Lot or Sublot	Applicable Discount (Percent of Contract Price)	Rejected Lot or Sublot
12.5 oz (354 g) cans		
Greater than 9.8 oz. (278 g) and less than 10.0 oz. (283.5 g)	2.25 percent	Average less than 9.6 oz. (272 g)
Greater than or equal to 9.6 oz. (272 g) and less than or equal to 9.8 oz. (278 g)	4.50 percent	
50 oz (1.42 kg) cans		
Greater than 39.1 oz. (1.11 kg) and less than 40.0 oz. (1.13 kg)	2.25 percent	Average less than 38.5 oz. (1.09 kg)
Greater than or equal to 38.5 oz. (1.09 kg) and less than or equal to 39.1 oz. (1.11 kg)	4.50 percent	

d. Determination. The drained-weight of the sample cans will be determined 24 to 72 hours after the day of the processing shift in which the product was produced. The contents of each sample can will be weighed after draining product, with a No. 8 sieve, for 2 minutes for a 12.5 oz (354 g) can and 3 minutes for a 50 oz (1.42 kg) can. The temperature of the commodity at time of weighing must be $75^{\circ} \pm 5^{\circ} \text{F}$ ($23.9^{\circ} \pm 2.8^{\circ} \text{C}$). The average drained-weight results will be reported to the nearest 10th of an ounce on the USDA shipping certificate.

e. Rejected product. If the commodity in a lot or subplot is rejected for drained weight, the contractor/processor may request an appeal which must be performed within 6 calendar days from the end of the processing shift on which the product was produced. The contractor/processor may remove cans suspected of being out of compliance and re-offer the balance of the lot or sub-lot once for acceptance. Those cans that are out of compliance with drained weight requirements will be rejected, but may be reworked in accordance with II.F.4.

2. Organoleptic Requirements. After thermal processing, the commodity will be sampled (as defined in II.E.3.) and examined for compliance with the following organoleptic requirements: The commodity must have an appetizing appearance, odor, flavor and texture, and must be free of off-flavor or off-odors; for example, overcooked, burnt, scorched, sour, stale, cardboardy, metallic, bitter, or rancid. A lot or subplot of commodity that does not comply with these organoleptic requirements will be rejected for use under this Specification.

3. Commodity Defects. The contractor/processor may select one of the two options (II.F.3.a. or II.F.3.b.) for the examination of commodity defects. Once an option is selected, the contractor/processor may not change options until the end of 1 day's production. Samples of commodity with more defects than the maximum tolerance for either option will result in the rejection of the lot or subplot the samples represent.

a. Option I - Examination prior to thermal processing. The samples (see II.E.3.b. (1) for sampling) will be randomly selected online prior to canning or thermal processing and examined for the defects shown in Table 5.

(1) The number of defects allowed will be those outlined in Poultry Programs' SPL-2. Separate examinations will be made for: (1) bone and (2) other defects.

(2) Regardless of the kind and number of defects (within Table 5) found, any sample with bone or hard bone-like material greater than 0.40 inch (1.02 cm) will be cause for the rejection of the product the sample represents.

(3) If the number of bone defects exceeds the maximum for the "target" level for the respective defect or results in a rejection, the frequency of sampling for bone defects will be increased to a sample drawn twice each sampling interval until the cumulative number of bone defects reverts back to the "target" level.

(4) If the sample has more defects than the maximum tolerance for the sample plan, the product the sample represents will be rejected.

Table 5. Commodity Defects - Option I

Defects - Meat:	A defect for meat is the presence of:
Bone:	Bone or hard bone-like material in a sample greater than 0.40 inch (1.02 cm) Bone or hard bone-like material in a sample less than or equal to 0.40 inch (1.02 cm).
Other:	Dark colored (due to blood) vein or artery more than 1 inch (2.54 cm) in length; or Bruises, blood clots, and moderate discolorations that exceed an area equivalent to a circle with a diameter of 0.30 inch (0.76 cm); or Presence of skin

b. Option II - Examination after thermal processing.

(1) After drained weight determination, the samples (see II.E.3.b.(2) for sampling) will be examined for the defects shown in Table 6.

(2) Separate examinations will be made for: (1) bone and (2) other defects. The number of defects allowed in a sample representing a lot or sub-lot will be as shown in Table 6.

(3) Regardless of the kind and number of defects (within Table 6) found, any sample with bone or hard bone-like material greater than 0.40 inch (1.02 cm) will be cause for the rejection of the product the sample represents.

(4) If the sample has more defects than the maximum tolerance for the sample plan, the product the sample represents will be rejected.

Table 6. Thermal-Processed Commodity Defects Allowed - Option II

	Defects	Tolerance
Meat:	A defect for meat is the presence of Bone or hard bone-like material * greater than 0.40 inch (1.02 cm) in a sample.	Rejected.
Bones:	Bone or hard bone-like material * less than or equal to 0.40 inch (1.02 cm) in a sample.	6 bones permitted per lot
		3 bones permitted per subplot
Other:	Dark colored (due to blood) vein or artery more than 1 inch (2.54 cm) in length.	10 defects permitted per lot
	Bruises, blood clots, and moderate discolorations that exceed an area equivalent to a circle with a diameter of 0.30 inch (0.76 cm).	5 defects permitted per subplot
Skin:	Presence of Skin	Rejected

* Bone or hard bone-like material is material that does not break up or disintegrate when subjected to pressure from a spatula, flat side of a knife, or fork.

4. Reworked Commodity.

a. Sample cans examined by the Grader or product rejected for defects exceeding the maximum tolerances, drained weight, or fat content may be reworked and incorporated into formulated batches of product, prior to thermal processing, provided:

- (1) The defects are removed from the product;
- (2) The product is incorporated at a maximum of 5 percent of the formulated batch; and
- (3) Product removed from cans must be reworked into a batch within 72 hours.

b. X-ray equipment may be used to examine product to be reworked provided:

- (1) The equipment and x-ray examination procedures are found to be in compliance with FSIS regulations and procedures; and
- (2) A Grader monitors the x-ray and rework procedure.

(3) The contractor/processor may remove product cans from a lot or subplot suspected of containing defects after the x-ray examination and the balance of the lot or subplot may be reoffered for acceptance. Product containing defects may be reworked once.

5. Contaminated Commodity. A lot or subplot of commodity that contains foreign matter--for example, paper, plastic, rubber, or metal--will be handled by FSIS. Samples that contain comminuted meat, giblets, or kidneys will result in rejection of the lot or subplot the samples represent.

6. Packing. All packing materials must be clean and in new condition and must not impart odors or flavors to the product.

a. Shipping containers. Shipping containers must: (1) be good commercial fiberboard containers that are acceptable by common or other carrier for safe transport to point of destination; (2) be of such size to pack the commodity without slack filling or bulging; (3) withstand the stresses of handling, shipping, stacking, and storage; and (4) be closed by commercially acceptable methods and materials. Steel or wire straps or staples must not be used for the final closure. Adhesive or staples cannot be used to fasten the top portion of telescope-style containers to the bottom portion. However, staples may be used to manufacture and to assemble the fiberboard shipping containers, provided the staples are fastened into the container and tightly clenched to eliminate sharp edges prior to packing the commodity into the shipping containers.

b. 12.5 oz. cans. Two cans must be shrink wrapped after stacking end-on-end and the pair of cans stacked two high and packed in a shipping container. Forty-eight 12.5 oz (354 g) cans of commodity must be packed four in length, three in width, four cans high in each shipping container.

c. 50 oz. cans. Twelve 50 oz. (1.42 kg) cans of commodity must be packed four in length, three in width, and in one layer in each shipping container.

III. LABELING

Commercial labeling (III.A.) must be used. Both the packages and shipping containers within a purchase unit must be labeled in commercial label format.

A. Commercial Labeling Requirements

Commercially labeled packages and shipping containers must be labeled in accordance with FSIS requirements. Labeling must be approved by FSIS prior to acceptance for use under this Specification.

1. Commercial Labels. Commercial labels must be the processor's own commercial label. Distributors' labels are not allowed.

2. Traceable Product. The processor must establish a product identification and record system that clearly links product by place and time of manufacture to specific USDA contracts and destinations. When the company uses the same commercial label for the product

certified as complying with this Specification and commercial product, the identification system must differentiate between USDA and non-USDA products. An alpha numeric code may be used for information that is in addition to FSIS labeling requirements. The required product identification and record system, including codes, must be reviewed by USDA before production begins for the contract(s).

B. Additional Labeling Issues

The following are not acceptable for use under this Specification:

1. Commercial labels that do not have a processor traceability system and code.
2. Commercial labeling traceability coding and systems that have not been reviewed by a representative of Poultry Programs, Grading Branch.
3. Distributor commercial labels.
4. Two or more different commercial labels in the same purchase unit.

C. F.A.S. Vessel Deliveries

F.A.S. vessel deliveries that are not source loaded in a seavan are required to show the final destination's overseas address as provided in the Notice to Deliver. The address must be clearly printed on at least two sides of each pallet.

IV. **FINAL EXAMINATION OF PACKAGED AND PACKED COMMODITY**

A. Verification of Materials and Defects

1. Verification of Packaging and Packing Materials.

The contractor must verify compliance with packaging, packing, and marking material requirements by furnishing the Grader the following certification on company stationery signed by a person authorized to do so by the contractor:

"(I) (We) certify that the packaging, packing, and marking materials used for any commodity presented for acceptance under the terms of the Commodity Specification for Canned Boned Poultry, dated May 2008, comply or will comply with the terms of this Commodity Specification.

Name _____

Title _____"

One certification is adequate for all production under this Specification.

2. Container, Labeling, and Marking Defects.

a. Defects. Cans and shipping containers will be examined for container, labeling, and marking defects in accordance with the United States Standards for Condition of Food Containers and the USDA publications "Procedures for the Inspection of the Condition of Food Containers" and "Visual Aids for Inspection for Metal Containers."

b. Tolerance for defects. If samples of packaged commodity or the shipping containers in a delivery unit have more defects than the maximum tolerance for the applicable Poultry Programs' sample plan, the delivery unit will be rejected.

B. Inspection and Checkloading

1. Requirements. Inspection for contract compliance will be made by a USDA representative, in accordance with 7 CFR part 70, FSIS regulations, and this Specification, at site of processing, both during and after processing and packaging. A USDA representative may select samples for laboratory analyses or inspect the commodity at any point in transit and after delivery to point of destination. Inspection records must be complete and made available to USDA, as requested, to assure contract compliance.

2. Procedures. The inspection and checkloading must be performed by the Grader. Procedures to be followed and a schedule of fees for these services may be obtained by contacting the nearest Grading Branch field office or the Chief of Grading Branch, Poultry Programs, AMS, USDA, Room 3938-S, STOP 0258, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-0258, telephone (202) 720-3271. The quality, quantity, weight, packaging, packing, and checkloading of the commodity must be evidenced by USDA certification. The contractor must not ship the commodity unless informed by the Grader that the designated lot or subplot to be shipped meets contract specifications.

V. **UNITIZATION**

Each delivery unit of canned boned poultry must be unitized (palletized and stretch-wrapped) and comply with the following:

A. Pallets

Pallets must be good quality, wood, 48 inches x 40 inches, nonreversible, flush stringer, and partial four-way entry. Each pallet of shipping containers must be stretch-wrapped with plastic film in a manner that will secure each container and layers of containers on the pallet. Palletized product must be loaded in a way that will prevent shifting and damage to containers of product. Pallet loads shall be stacked in a manner that minimizes the overhang of the shipping containers over the edges of the pallets and exposes the principal display panels to facilitate certification examinations.

B. Pallet Exchange

Contractors may arrange for pallet exchange with consignees; however, USDA is not responsible for such arrangements.

VI. SHIPMENT AND DELIVERY

Shipment and delivery must be made in accordance with this Specification, and the applicable Announcement and Invitation. In addition, the contractor must adhere to the following provisions:

A. Contract Compliance Stamp

Each shipping container must be identified with a USDA Contract Compliance stamp with the applicable certificate number. A Grader, or other authorized personnel under the supervision of the Grader, will stamp one end of each shipping container prior to shipment. If there is inadequate space available on either end of the shipping container, the stamp may be applied to a side of the container.

B. Grading Certificate

A copy of the original USDA Certificate issued at time of checkloading must accompany each shipment.

1. Railcar or Piggyback. If shipment is by rail or piggyback, the certificate must be placed in the railcar or trailer for easy access to the Grader, warehouseman, or consignee, as applicable.

2. Trucks. If shipment is by truck, the driver must, upon delivery, give the certificate to the Grader, warehouseman, or consignee, as applicable.

C. Loading and Sealing of Vehicles

Loading must be in accordance with good commercial practices and the initial sealing must be done at origin under the supervision of a Grader. Thereafter, all delivery units--truck lot and less-than-truck lot (LTL) quantities—must be secured at all times prior to unloading with tamper proof, tamper resistant, serially numbered, high security seals. Suppliers of commodities, products and/or services shall be responsible for placing a seal(s) on all doors of each transportation conveyance upon completion of loading or servicing. Seals shall be serially numbered, barrier-type, and meet the American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) standards. Seals shall be $\frac{1}{8}$ th inch diameter cable, high security bolt, or equivalent. The Contractor must maintain a record of each seal number used for truck lot and LTL delivery units. Additionally, the Contractor must ensure that the applicable seal identification number is on each bill of lading, shipment manifest, or other delivery documents for each delivery destination.

When LTL delivery units are transported on the same trailer or railcar and destined for multiple recipients, the trailer or railcar must be sealed after each delivery. The seal number must be recorded on the appropriate delivery documents and correspond with the applied seal at the time of arrival at the next destination. It will be the responsibility of the contractor to provide a sufficient number of seals and ensure that the carrier service (truck or rail) secures the trailer or railcar after each delivery destination. Failure to seal the trailer or railcar after each stop will result in rejection of the shipment by the recipient agency at the next scheduled stop and rejection of any subsequent deliveries on the trailer or railcar.

1. Railcar. Each railcar must be sealed. The contractors are responsible for arranging railcar deliveries of more than one delivery unit so that each delivery unit contained in the same railcar can be completely separated, secured and sealed.

2. Truck or Piggyback. Truck or piggyback shipments must be sealed at origin. A delivery unit shipped by truck or piggyback which includes split deliveries to multiple destinations will require separation by sealing after each drop.

D. Delivery Notification

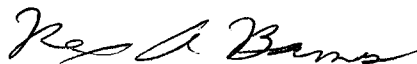
The contractor must follow the instructions in the Notice to Deliver issued by the Kansas City Commodity Office (KCCO) concerning delivery notification. Such notification and information of impending delivery are vital in proper execution of delivery. The contractor must notify the State distributing agency and the consignee of shipment per instructions in the Notice to Deliver. For rail or piggyback shipments, notification shall be made on the day of shipment. For truck shipments, notification of the estimated arrival time should be made as far in advance of delivery as possible. In addition, for truck or piggyback shipments, the contractor must request and keep scheduled appointment(s). Unloading appointments for truck or piggyback shipments must be requested from the consignee contact party(ies) at least 24 hours in advance of delivery.

1. In-Plant Deliveries. When in-plant delivery is made, the contractor must notify the appropriate resident Grader and furnish applicable information.

2. Delivery In Storage. Delivery may be made in store provided the destination in the Notice to Deliver and the place the contractor has the commodity in storage are the same. Inspection and certification by a Grader are also required for transfers in store.

E. Split Deliveries

The contractor is responsible to deliver the quantity stated on each Notice to Deliver to each destination. Contractors must provide to the Grader, at time of shipment, the number of boxes and pounds for each destination. At the option of the contractor, a purchase unit with two or more Notices to Deliver (split deliveries) for multiple destinations may be delivered on separate trucks provided each truck ships the total quantity stated on the Notice to Deliver. Any additional costs will accrue to the contractor's account.



Rex A. Barnes
Deputy Administrator
Poultry Programs

Attachment

USDA SYMBOL

